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The other day someone posed an interesting statement. They said, "I bet being a nurse has given you the passion to want to throw yourself behind this Senators (Aguilar) bill (Co-Operate Colorado)." My response was a pretty diluted, "Yeah, I suppose so." Now my thoughts keep coming back to me about the inadequacy of that response. What if I wasn't a nurse, would I care about healthcare? Certainly, being a nurse, has afforded me a rare glimpse of the inadequacy of our current state of healthcare in America. I get to see on a daily basis the end result of those with and without insurance (Medicaid and Medicare included), as they go through hospitalization(s) for advanced disease processes that could have had better outcomes had they been diagnosed earlier and better managed. There are literally thousands of stories that fit that bill. I see that for some, access to healthcare is seen as a privilege and not as I believe it should be, a basic human right, like freedom. I have taken care of so many patients who have come to believe in a system that advocates throwing a pill at "it" so "it" will go away. There are those that have grown up within a created culture of dependency believing that it is all up to their doctors and health care givers to make them well. Give them what they think they need or want so they can go back to living the lives that keep them in a state of desperation and complacency in taking the reins to their own health. How our current system of healthcare is run has proven itself ineffectual in the prevention and management of common or chronic diseases. This has created tension in the giving of patient care, where the rubber really meets the road. Daily, care givers are dealing with the questions of who is insured, who isn't, how much is covered, and how much isn't. The message screams loudly to the health care giver to pay attention to the business of healthcare rather than to the business of giving care. This has created a "house divided" effect in the administration of our care.

Why else do I care? I grew up in a poor small town Colorado community. I saw within my own family the aforementioned resultant dysfunctions in taking care of their selves. I saw what the lack of real education, prevention and follow up in our health care system had wrought long before I ever chose to become a nurse. I just want this madness to stop for my family and in the families of those I love.

I look at my children. I look at my friends and their families. I think of the grand children not yet born who will inherit a system established by our decisions today. I can just imagine them saying, "thanks mom, dad, grandma, and grandpa for not doing anything to try and fix the system so I could at least have had a chance to stay well and get well." I could just be complacent and say that it's too big of a problem to fix, I could just leave it for someone else to come along to make things better and maybe I can just deny the problem exists at all. I don't want to say or believe any of these things, because I believe to ignore this is myopic, uncaring of life, and I believe the ability to just not want to care about these things is an immoral person in the making.

Lastly, I would like to say that besides all the other positive qualities of SCR13-002 in saving money, and creating jobs, I support this Bill because it will save lives and create better access to healthcare for all of Colorado's citizens. My ability to cast a vote in support of this Bill is not driven by any political agenda. Instead I'd like to think of myself as apolitical and that my desires for this Bill to pass are driven by a passion to seeing better outcomes in my patients and less tension in their care givers.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my view.